GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AYURVEDA,YOGA & NATUROPATHY,UNANI,SIDDHA AND HOMEOPATHY (AYUSH)
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1381
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2016
Export of Medicinal Plants
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of AYURVEDA,YOGA & NATUROPATHY,UNANI,SIDDHA AND HOMEOPATHY (AYUSH) be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY (AYUSH) be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had issued any notification prohibiting export of medicinal plants and, in 2012, added more such plants in the list and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the total export of medicinal plants at present being made by India;

(c) whether there is urgent need to protect herbal plants of medicinal value being used from ages; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF AYURVEDA,
YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY
(SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK)
(a): In year 2012, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India in exercise of power conferred by the Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation), Act 1992 had issued a notification titled "Indian Trade Classification (Harmonised System) of Export and Import Items, 2012 (HS), 2012. As per this notification, the chapter 12 under ITS (HS) Schedule-2 (Expert Policy) provides regulations / Export Policy for medicinal plants also. As per this Export Policy "plants and plant portions of wild origin, of species specified in any of the Schedules of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 or Appendix I of CITES or Export Licensing Note 1 are prohibited and not permitted for export". Under Export License Note 1 export of twenty nine (29) species of medicinal plants is prohibited (Annexure).

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(b): As per Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) information, the export of medicinal plants during the last three years and current year is as under:
Export of AYUSH and Herbal Products / Medicinal Plant

Year	Quantity (Kg)	Value (US$)
2012-13	84490260	389196702
2013-14	76720120	366986349
2014-15	92059222	354681946
2015-16 (Apr-Dec)	69580123	262174769

(c) & (d): Yes, with the increasing awareness and demand for indigenous system of medicines, demand for the medicinal plants is increasing day by day. This has resulted in indiscriminate collection of herbal / medicinal plants from wild and led to decrease in their population in the wild. Therefore, the protection of herbal plants of medicinal value / medicinal plants is urgent needs.
In this regard to look into all matter related to medicinal plants the Government of India in year 2000 has set up National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) under Department of AYUSH (now Ministry of AYUSH). Since its inception NMPB is working towards conservation, development and sustainable management of medicinal plants along with promotion of medicinal plants cultivation on farmers land to meet the ever increasing demand. Presently, the NMPB, Ministry of AYUSH is implementing the following two schemes in this regard :
1. Central Sector Scheme for Conservation, Development and Sustainable Management of Medicinal Plants
2. Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National AYUSH Mission (NAM)
Under the Central Sector Scheme, conservation of medicinal plants is being carried out mainly through in-situ conservation by way of plantation/ resource augmentation of species in their natural habitat and establishing Medicinal Plants Conservation and Development Areas (MPCDAs) etc., and through ex-situ conservation by developing herbal gardens.
In order to reduce the pressure on wild population of medicinal plants species, the Ministry of AYUSH under the NAM scheme is promoting large scale cultivation of medicinal plants on farmers land and in this regard provides financial assistance as subsidy @ 30%, 50% and 75% of cost of cultivation to farmers for cultivation of medicinal plants.
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